

# Guide to NANTUCKET

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J. H. ROBINSON.



# GUIDE TO NANTUCKET

BY

J. H. ROBINSON

Formerly of Nantucket  
and Member of The Nantucket Historical Association



SECOND EDITION



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Points of Interest, Roads, Drives, Lightships, Lighthouses, etc., are shown upon the maps of the Island and County of Nantucket, Town of Nantucket, Village of Siasconset, and the Steamboat Route.

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**Note.**—All distances are in statute or land miles.

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# N a n t u c k e t I s l a n d



**N**ANTUCKET is the largest of a group of islands known as Nantucket County, Massachusetts, its greatest **LENGTH** being **15 MILES**, east and west, by about **4 MILES IN WIDTH**. It lies about 100 miles from the eastern end of Long Island and **25 MILES SOUTH OF CAPE COD**, from which it is separated by Nantucket Sound, its southern, eastern and western shores being washed by the waters of the Atlantic. The nearest land on the east is **PORTUGAL**, at a distance of 3,188 miles, and on the south the **WEST INDIES**, 1,463 miles.

Nantucket is one of the most delightful summer resorts on the New England

coast, and its climate the most healthful, its location precluding all possibility of a land breeze. The **TEMPERATURE** of the atmosphere is **RARELY OVER 85 DEGREES**, while that of the water is from 70 to 74. Excellent **SURF BATHING** is found upon the eastern and southern shores, and in the Sound and Harbor, **STILL WATER**.

To those in search of health and recreation the conditions are ideal, the broad **SANDY BEACHES**, covered by an endless variety of seashells, pebbles and finely-wrought seaweeds, with now and then an old hulk of a vessel tossed up by the waves, afford a most comfortable lounging place and attractive tramping ground. The pleasure seeker will find all that can be desired at the seaside, **BOATING**, sailing or rowing, **FISHING**, tennis and bicycling; while fine **GOLF** courses are maintained near the towns of Nantucket and 'Sconset. The Nantucket **ATHLETIC CLUB** and the 'Sconset **CASINO** furnish practically all kinds of amusement.

A sojourn upon the island has been likened to an ocean voyage with the disagreeable features eliminated. There is **ALWAYS A BREEZE**, and the pure, invigorating salt



air and bright sunshine, with the peace and quiet which pervades, is most soothing alike to the tired brain-worker and the person of nervous temperament. **MALARIA IS UNKNOWN.** That the climate is most beneficial for recuperative purposes, is the unanimous endorsement of many prominent members of the medical profession.

**AUTOMOBILES ARE NOT ALLOWED** upon the island; driving is therefore safe and attended with no discomforts. There are **PLEASANT DRIVES** to all parts of the island, with a never-ending variety of exquisite marine views. Many of the beauty spots lie hidden among **THE HILLS**, away from the main thoroughfares, and to see which it will be necessary to turn off into the old deep-rutted roads which form a network over the **MOORS**, where the wild flowers grow in profusion and the **SCOTCH HEATHER** blooms in all its native beauty.

Although never thickly wooded, much of the timber used for building purposes, in the earlier days, was of island growth. Today no large trees are found outside of the town, but groves of fragrant dwarf pines, scrub oaks and cedars are scattered here and there about the island.

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## *T h e T o w n o f N a n t u c k e t*

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This picturesque old town, with its narrow cobble-paved streets lined with frame dwellings and the sidewalk bordered with graceful shade trees, is located on a beautiful harbor, about midway of the island. It is charming in its quaintness; the simplicity of design of its old buildings, dating back beyond the days when Nantucket lead the world in the whaling industry; and the ivy-grown houses with the queer little roof-walks from which to view the surrounding waters.



From the Tower Looking Toward the North Shore

Nantucket is the county seat of Nantucket county, and has a **POPULATION** of 3,000, augmented during the months of July and August, when the season is at its height, by 10,000 visitors.

During the summer months, with the exception of one Sunday boat, **STEAMBOATS** arrive and depart twice daily for Woods Hole (Boston connection), and New Bedford (New York connection via Sound steamers), on the mainland. Communication may also be had by **TELEGRAPH**, both cable and wireless. **A RAILROAD** between the town and 'Sconset is operated during the summer, and all parts of the island can be reached by **TELEPHONE**.

The **HOTELS** are first-class and there are excellent boarding houses, many private houses having rooms for rent. There is a **POST-OFFICE**, **NATIONAL BANK**, Institution for Savings, six churches, Town Hall, schools, **LIBRARY**, antique shops, and moving picture theaters. **A BAND** concert, on the Square, is the feature of the evening. The "Inquirer and Mirror," the only newspaper printed on the island, is issued every Friday evening. Gas, electricity and ice are furnished by local enterprises. **WATER OF THE PUREST QUALITY**, drawn from a spring-fed pond, is supplied to the town, which has an efficient fire department, water works, and sewerage system, and is well supplied with all necessities incident to the health, convenience and amusement of the summer visitors.

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## *H i s t o r y   o f   N a n t u c k e t*

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Nantucket was **DISCOVERED IN 1602**, by Bartholomew Gosnold, an English mariner, who, in a small bark, with 32 companions, sailed from Falmouth in March of that year, with the intention of establishing a colony in America. Two months later they landed near Salem, Massachusetts, but not being favorably impressed with the surroundings they



From the Tower Looking Toward the South Shore

re-embarked and sailed around Cape Cod, passing close to Nantucket, Marthas Vineyard and the Elizabeth Islands, from which group they selected Cuttyhunk and established a settlement. They remained but a few weeks, their venture ending in failure.

That Nantucket was in reality discovered many years before, there is little doubt, but positive proof is lacking. The claim of the English Government to these islands, by right of discovery, was based upon the voyage of John Cabot, and his son Sebastian, who, in 1498 cruised along the coast from Florida to Labrador.

William, **EARL OF STERLING**, obtained the grant, including the islands south of Cape Cod, from "The Council for New England," a corporation created by the King in 1621, for the purpose of encouraging and establishing colonial settlements in America.

In 1637 **JAMES FORRETT** came to New York, appointed by Lord Sterling as his agent to dispose of the territory thus acquired. **IN OCTOBER, 1641**, Forrett sold the island of Nantucket to **THOMAS MAYHEW** and son, who, in **FEBRUARY, 1659**, **FOR "THIRTY POUNDS CURRENT PAY, AND TWO BEAVER HATS, ONE FOR MYSELF, AND ONE FOR MY WIFE,"** sold all but a one-tenth interest, which included that part of the island called **QUAISE**, to nine others, viz.: **TRISTRAM COFFIN, Sr., CHRISTOPHER HUSSEY, RICHARD SWAINE, THOMAS BARNARD, PETER COFFIN, STEPHEN GREENLEAF, JOHN SWAINE, THOMAS MACY, AND WILLIAM PILE.** Each purchaser chose an associate, viz.: John Smith, Nathaniel Starbuck, Robert Pike, Thomas Look, Robert Barnard, James Coffin, Tristram Coffin, Jr., Thomas Coleman, and Edward Starbuck. The tenth part which belonged to William Pile was divided, one-half to John Bishop and one-half to William, Mary, Ann, and Martha Bunker. These were the purchasers who, in May, 1660, **BOUGHT THE RIGHT OF THE INDIAN SACHEMS** to the island.



The South Beach and Monomoy

Of the **360 INDIANS** who inhabited the island, when the settlers arrived, 222 were carried away by disease which visited them in 1763-4. The remainder gradually disappeared, **THE LAST FULL-BLOODED INDIAN DYING IN 1822.**

A half-breed by the name of Abram Quarry, the last man with Indian blood in his veins, died in 1855. He lived on Abram's point, on the south side of Nantucket harbor, not far from an old Indian burying ground.

Thomas Macy, Edward Starbuck and Thomas Coleman, representing the settlers, spent the winter of 1658-9 on the island, building their **HUT AT MADDAKET.** They came to consult with the Indians in regard to purchasing certain rights and privileges, and to determine the best location for their dwellings.

In **JUNE, 1661,** the **SETTLERS,** then living in Amesbury and Salisbury, Massachusetts, **EMBARKED FOR THEIR NEW HOME** accompanied by Peter Folger, an interpreter of the Indian language, whose daughter was the mother of Benjamin Franklin. They landed at Cupaum harbor, now Cupaum pond (closed by a storm about the year 1700), and built their houses **NEAR THE HEAD OF HUMMOCK POND,** and took up fishing, farming and **SHEEP RAISING** as a means of obtaining a livelihood. The territory purchased from the Indians, outside of the dwelling sites, was held in common and was used by all for sheep grazing. The number of sheep any one person could own was determined by the proportion of his interests in the original island shares, to the land available for such purpose. It was agreed that an acre of common land was sufficient to maintain one sheep, hence the term "**SHEEP COMMONS,**" an expression readily understood by the Indians. In 1775 the flocks numbered over 15,000 head, and the **ANNUAL**



Near Commercial Wharf

**SHEARING**, which commenced on the Monday nearest the 20th of June, was the occasion for a general celebration, and in later years many strangers, called "**COOFS**" by the islanders, came to attend the festivities. The western shear-pen was located near **MAXCY'S** pond, and the eastern near **GIBBS'** pond, and when the eastern shearing was finished the western commenced. The **LAST SHEARING** occurred in 1847, at which time the shear-pen was located near **MIACOMET** pond.

Tristram Coffin was the **FIRST CHIEF MAGISTRATE** of the island, and was appointed in 1671 by Governor Lovelace of **NEW YORK**, to which colony the island belonged, and to whom was paid an "**ANNUAL TAX** of **FOUR BARRELS OF MERCHANTABLE COD FISH.**" The name of the town at that time was **SHERBURNE**.

The **FIRST ROAD** extended from the settlement to the harbor, being the same as West Center and Chester streets of today. The **FIRST CHURCH, SCHOOL HOUSE, TOWN HOUSE,** and **JAIL** were on this road and stood just north of **NO BOTTOM POND**, and about one-half mile west from the junction of West Center and North Liberty streets. In 1667 a **GRISTMILL** was built near Chester street, between Center and North Water streets, on the bank of the Lily pond brook, and in 1676 a **FULLING MILL** was built and operated near by.

In 1673 **THE TOWN WAS MOVED** to its present site, known to the Indians as "Wesquo." It retained the name of **SHERBURNE UNTIL 1795**, when it was changed to Nantucket. The island was no longer a part of the New York Colony, having been **ANNEXED** to the Province of Massachusetts **IN 1692.**



Old Whaler "Morning Star "

The illustrations of this old whaleship are from photographs taken by the writer the day before she sailed on a cruise which lasted four years, returning safely with a cargo of oil.

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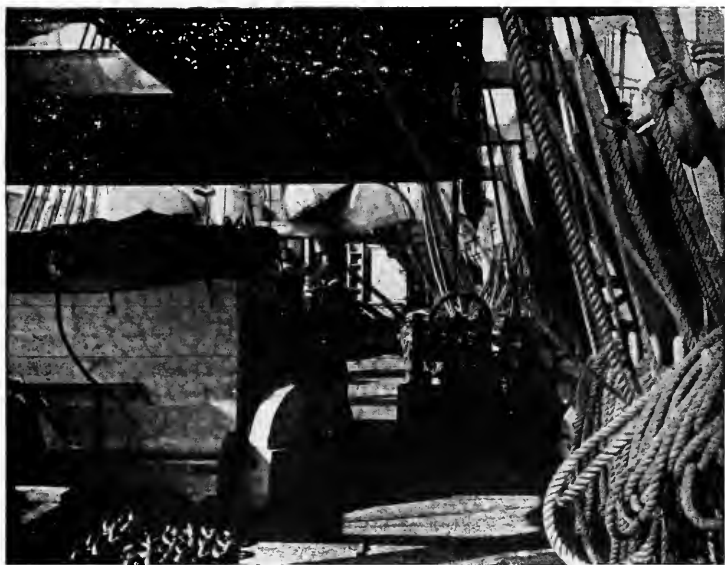
## *The Nantucket Whale Fishery*

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Thirty years after the settlers had taken up their abode on the island, or about the year 1690, **THE CATCHING OF WHALES** commenced. It was evident from the number of dead whales washed ashore (which it had been agreed the Indians should have), that the waters about them held in store an additional means of obtaining a livelihood. **WHALES WERE FREQUENTLY SEEN** spouting and sporting in the sea not **FAR FROM THE SHORE**, and to devise a method of capture was a problem which the inhabitants undertook to solve. That they were successful is evidenced by the fact that whales were soon being taken by means of small boats which put out from the shore. The south side of the island was divided into four beats, and **MASTS WERE ERECTED** on the bluffs bordering the beach, where lookouts were stationed with a horn with which to call the boat crews, numbering six, and advise them of the whereabouts of the whale. After capture the whale was towed ashore to the **TRY-WORKS ON THE BEACH**, where the oil was extracted, placed in barrels and carted across the island.

The growth of the industry was rapid and in the course





Deck of the Old Whaler "Morning Star"

of a few years sloops and even small schooners were fitted out for short voyages. **STRAIGHT WHARF** was built in 1720. In 1772 two Nantucket whaleships sailed for London with cargoes of oil, and after unloading they were chartered to bring cargoes of **TEA TO BOSTON**. Upon their arrival in 1773 the tea was promptly thrown overboard, thus making a familiar bit of history. At the breaking out of **THE REVOLUTION**, in 1775, the fleet numbered 140 **SEA-GOING CRAFT**, including brigs of considerable size. The war proved a severe blow to the industry, the vessels being nearly all lost by capture.

After the **PEACE OF 1783** business was revived, larger vessels were built, and longer voyages undertaken. The **FIRST SHIP TO FLY THE FLAG IN A BRITISH PORT** was the "Bedford," Capt. Mooers, from Nantucket, with a cargo of oil, in 1783. The cruising grounds were no longer confined to the Atlantic, and in 1791 the ships of Nantucket became the **PIONEERS OF THE PACIFIC** whale fishery, the **FIRST WHALER TO ROUND CAPE HORN** being the ship "Beaver," Capt. Paul Worth.

In 1794 the population of Nantucket was 5,600, and of this number one-half were Quakers.

During the **WAR WITH ENGLAND**, 1812-1814, many vessels were lost and the people suffered the greatest distress. After the declaration of peace the industry was prosecuted with renewed energy; new and larger vessels



Deck of the Old Whaler "Morning Star"

were added to the fleet, and the wharves, strewn with anchors, try-pots, spars, timber and oil casks, were lined with whaleships fitting out for the contemplated voyage, and an air of life and activity prevailed.

**IN 1840 NANTUCKET HAD A POPULATION OF 9,712, and was THE LARGEST WHALING PORT IN THE WORLD.** At this time, **SHIP BUILDING** was carried on quite extensively on Brant Point, and the manufacture of nearly everything to meet the local demand was engaged in, and included cordage of all kinds, whaleboats, blocks, pumps, boots, shoes, nails, brushes, bellows, silk, and straw. **TEN ROPEWALKS, 36 CANDLE HOUSES,** several tanneries, and an iron and brass foundry were in



Old Candle House



The Life-savers Landing in the Surf at South Shore

operation, besides numerous sail-lofts and cooper shops where casks and candle boxes were made.

**THE DECLINE OF THE WHALING INDUSTRY** dates from the fall in the price of oil, in 1842. Other ports were growing in importance and the business was being overdone; while whales were becoming scarce, **VOYAGES OF FOUR YEARS** very often ending in failure. **A GREAT FIRE** in 1846 destroyed nearly a million dollars' worth of property, and the **GOLD FEVER** of 1849 drew heavily upon the male population of the town. The **LAST WHALESHIP** sailed in 1869 and the industry, so far as Nantucket is concerned, has become extinct, although for many years it was the headquarters of the American whale fishery, and the people of the island its pioneers.

The **FIRST STEAMBOAT** to run between the island and the mainland was the "Eagle," which crossed the Sound in 1818, but many years elapsed before steamboats were running with any degree of regularity, sailing vessels being depended upon for communication with the ports of New Bedford, Boston, New York, Albany, and Baltimore; and a fair schedule was maintained by these "**PACKETS.**"

It was not until 1870 that Nantucket, on account of its climate, so wonderfully beneficial for recuperative purposes, began to attract attention as a **SUMMER RESORT**, since which time it has steadily grown in popularity. **SINCE 1875** the population has averaged about three thousand, whose occupation, beside the entertainment of the summer visitor, is **FISHING, FARMING,** and the cultivation of **CRANBERRIES.**



The Nantucket Historical Association—Museum

### ***The Nantucket Historical Association—Museum***

From Main Street, take Fair Street. **OPEN DAILY, EXCEPT SUNDAY, 9 TO 5. ADMISSION 15 CENTS.**

Adjoining the **FRIENDS' MEETINGHOUSE**, on Fair street, is the new building of the Historical Association, in which is a **MUSEUM**, considered one of the best in the State.

**THE ASSOCIATION** was organized in May, 1894, and incorporated two months later, with headquarters in the **OLD MEETINGHOUSE**, which they bought during that year. Since that time the Association has erected a **FIRE-PROOF BUILDING** to insure the preservation of the many **OLD RECORDS** and articles of historical interest which they have on exhibition. One of the most interesting specimens is the **JAW OF A SPERM WHALE**, taken in the Pacific Ocean by the bark "Islander," Capt. Cash, of Nantucket. It measures 17 feet in length, weighs 800 pounds, and has 46 teeth. The length of the whale was 87 feet, circumference 36 feet, weight about two hundred tons, and yield of oil, 110 barrels.

In the vestibule of the new building is a **MEMORIAL TABLET** upon which is inscribed the names of the 21 Nantucket sailors who served on the "Ranger" and "Bon Homme Richard," under Commodore John Paul Jones, in the Revolutionary War, and that of Lieut. Pinkham, U. S. N., of Nantucket, whose personal efforts were the means of preserving the birthplace of John Paul Jones at Arbigland, Scotland, in 1831.

The **OLD MEETINGHOUSE** was **BUILT BY THE FRIENDS' IN 1838**, being originally used by them as a **SCHOOL**. It was transformed into a place of worship in 1864 and used as such until the last member of the society on the island passed away. The furnishings and arrangements are the same as in former years.



Old Windmill

### *The Old Mill*

Main Street to Pleasant Street to South Mill Street. **ADMISSION 15 CENTS.**

Just southwest of the town and in that locality known as the "**MILL HILLS**" stands the old mill. It was **BUILT IN 1746**, the date cut into the stone doorstep, and the timbers used in its construction grew just across **DEAD HORSE VALLEY**, to the south.

In 1776, three mills were in operation on the hills, the one now standing being the easternmost. **DURING THE REVOLUTION** the vanes were set to give warning of the approach of British vessels.

The mill is now the property of the Historical Association, and is open to the public.



Old Coffin House

### ***The Oldest House on the Island***

From Main Street Square, take Center Street to West Center Street to Sunset Hill Street. **OPEN FROM 9 TO 12 AND 2 TO 5. ADMISSION 15 CENTS.** This route passes **OLD NORTH VESTRY** (page 25).

An interesting relic of the earlier days of Nantucket is the old **JETHRO COFFIN HOUSE**, which stands on **SUNSET HILL**. It faces south and has a huge **HORSE-SHOE** formed of brick on the front of the chimney, while on the back is the date on which the house **WAS BUILT, 1686.**

It was a **WEDDING GIFT** to Mary Gardner and Jethro Coffin and was built for them by John Gardner and Peter Coffin, fathers of the bride and groom, respectively.

Among the interesting features is the **FIREPLACE**, which is built of **LARGE BRICKS** laid in mortar made from **LIME OBTAINED FROM SEASHELLS**. The little **OPENING NEAR THE DOOR**, through which to observe those seeking admittance, is also a most desirable feature when it is remembered that several hundred **INDIANS ROAMED AT WILL** about the island.

The northeast corner of the house was destroyed by fire many years ago and repairs were made without regard to the original rectangular lines.

Within a stone's throw, and southeast of the Coffin house, stands the **OLD PADDOCK HOUSE, BUILT IN 1720.**

# NANTUCKET

## MASSACHUSETTS

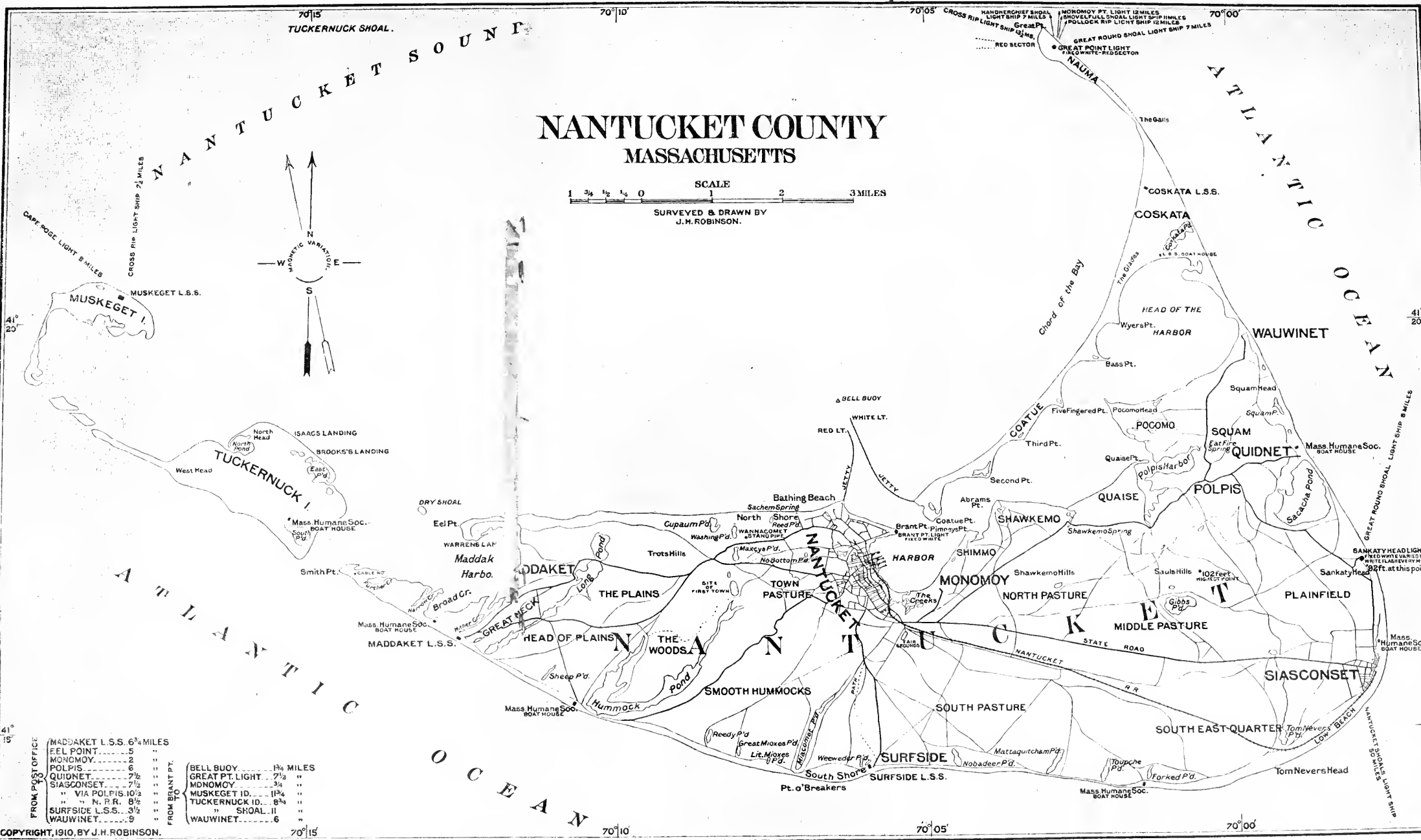
SURVEYED & DRAWN BY

J. H. ROBINSON

SCALE

ONE FOURTH MILE





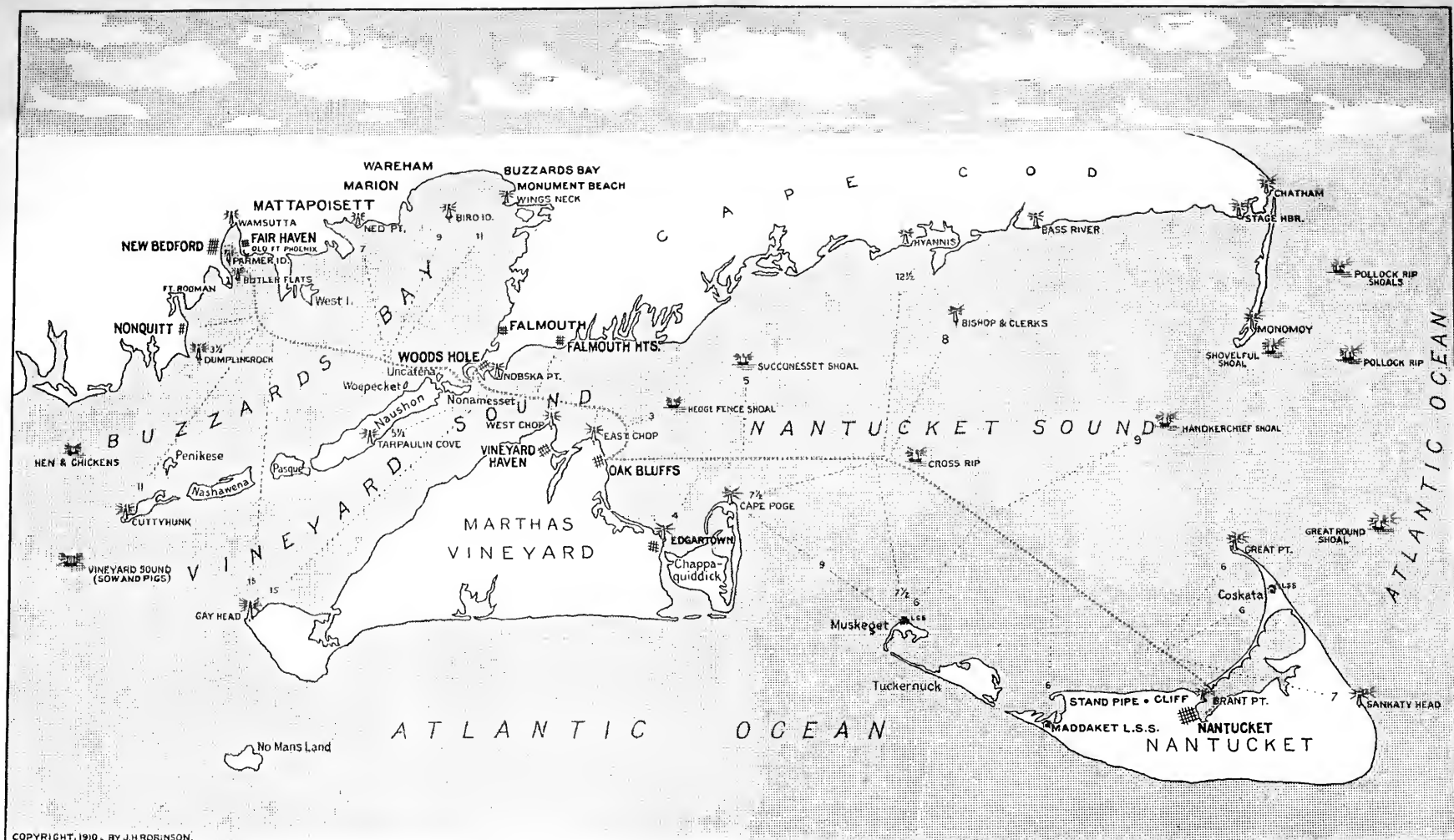
# Distance TO THE Horizon

BEGINNING with five feet, the height of the average eye above the water when standing at the water's edge, the table below will give the distance at which an entire object can be seen from the height given.

Feet	Stat. Miles	Feet	Stat. Miles
5	2.95	280	22.12
10	4.14	290	22.50
15	5.11	300	22.89
20	5.90	310	23.28
25	6.59	320	23.65
30	7.23	330	24.01
35	7.82	340	24.38
40	8.35	350	24.74
45	8.86	360	25.08
50	9.34	370	25.43
55	9.80	380	25.77
60	10.24	390	26.11
65	10.65	400	26.44
70	11.06	410	26.77
75	11.44	420	27.09
80	11.82	430	27.42
85	12.18	440	27.73
90	12.54	450	28.03
95	12.78	460	28.35
100	13.21	470	28.66
110	13.86	480	28.95
120	14.47	490	29.26
130	15.07	500	29.56
140	15.65	510	29.85
150	16.17	520	30.14
160	16.71	530	30.43
170	17.22	540	30.72
180	17.73	550	30.99
190	18.21	560	31.29
200	18.68	570	31.57
210	19.14	580	31.84
220	19.60	590	32.12
230	20.05	600	32.38
240	20.47	620	32.93
250	20.89	650	33.71
260	21.31	700	34.98
270	21.72	750	36.20

FROM POST OFFICE	MADDAKET L.S.S. 6 1/4 MILES
	EEL POINT 5
	MONOMOY 5 1/2
	POLPIS 5 1/2
	QUIDNET 7 1/2
	SIASCONSET 7 1/2
	" VIA POLPIS 10 1/2
	" N. R.R. 8 1/2
	SURFSIDE L.S.S. 3 1/2
	WAUWINET 9
FROM BRANT PT.	
	(BELL BUOY 1 1/4 MILES
	GREAT PT. LIGHT 7 1/2 "
	MONOMOY 3 1/4 "
	MUSKEGET ID. 1 1/4 "
	TUCKERNUCK ID. 8 3/4 "
	" SHOAL 11 "
	WAUWINET 6 "





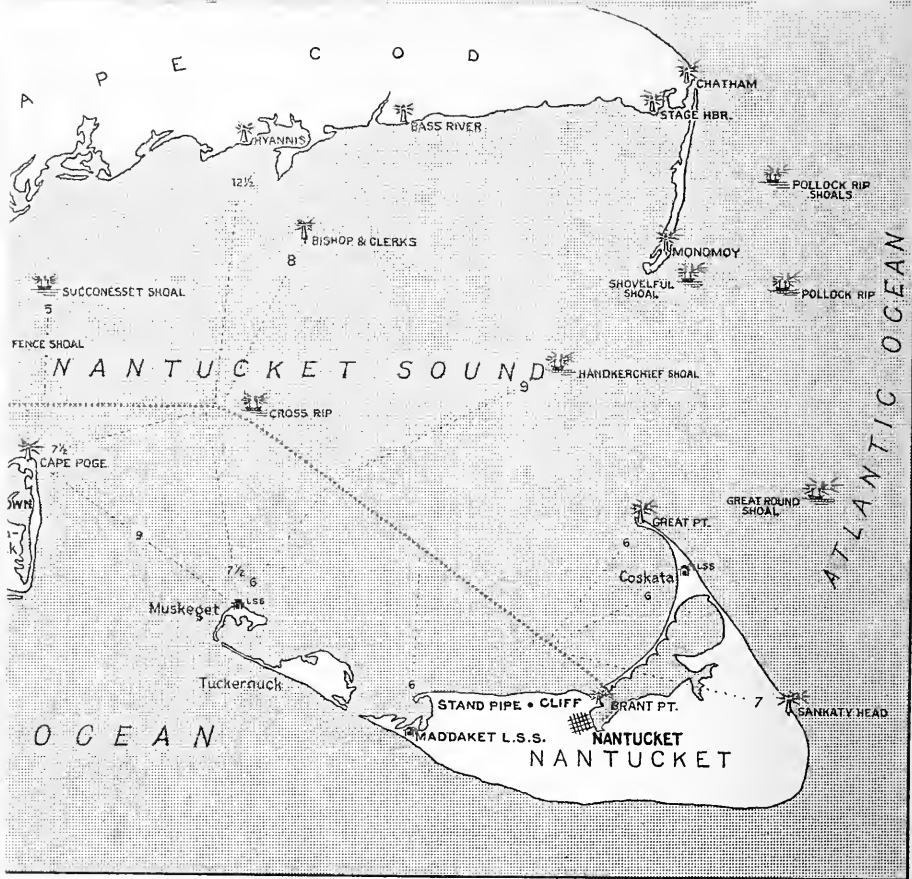
The route traveled by the steamboats plying between Nantucket and the mainland is shown by the dotted red line, and the points of interest visible on a clear day are shown by dotted lines which emanate therefrom. Figures indicate the distance in statute miles from the nearest point on route to the object designated.

From New Bedford to Woods Hole, 16 miles, 1 hour and 20 minutes; from Woods Hole to Oak Bluffs, 8 miles, 40 minutes; from Oak Bluffs to Nantucket, 30 miles, 2 hours and 30 minutes. Total distance, 54 miles; total time, 4 hours and 30 minutes.

On a clear day land is visible at all times from the upper deck of the steamer, the point farthest away being 2 miles (about 10 minutes) before the lightship on Cross Rip Shoal is reached, when Cape Poge lighthouse and the Muskeget Life-saving Station are equidistant,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

The route passes close to the lightship, papers, magazines, etc., being frequently thrown on board. The lightship is half way between Oak Bluffs and Nantucket,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hours being required to reach the wharf.

In addition to the Muskeget station, the following points appear along the horizon, in the order named: Houses on Tuckernuck, Maddaket Life-saving Station, Standpipe, and the houses on the Cliff, back of which the town of Nantucket is hidden.



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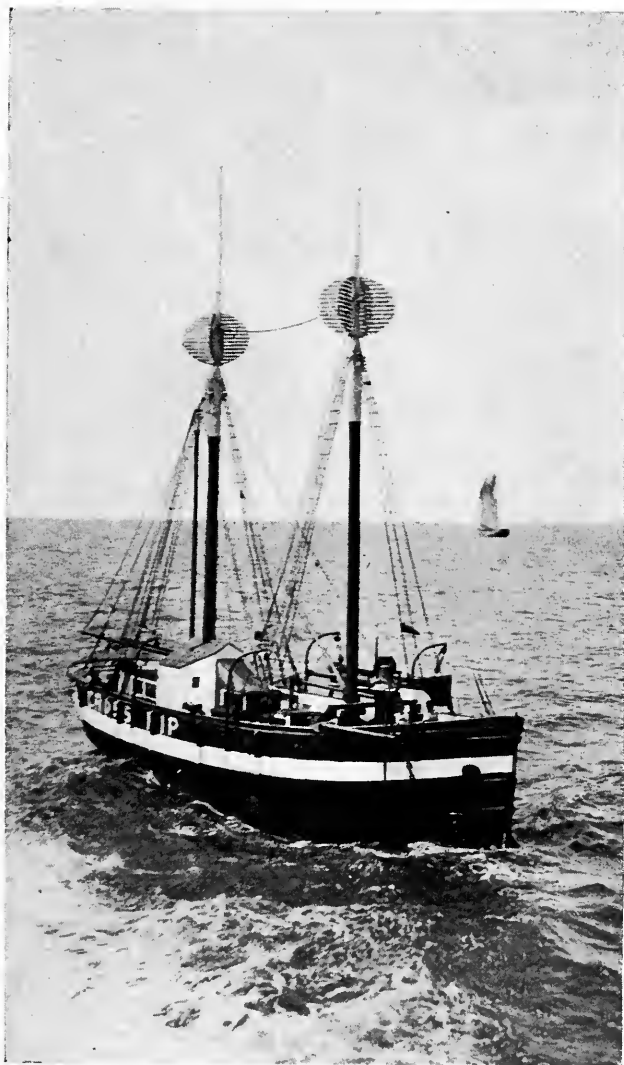
lighthouse and the **Muskeget Life-saving Station** are equidistant,  $7\frac{1}{2}$

being frequently thrown on board. The lightship is half way between

f.

along the horizon, in the order named: **Houses on Tuckernuck, Maddaket**

which the town of Nantucket is hidden.



Cross Rip Lightship



The Atheneum

### ***Public Library—Atheneum***

The Atheneum is on Federal street but a short distance from Main Street Square. The library occupies the lower floor of the building and numbers nearly **15,000 VOLUMES**. All of the leading magazines and reviews are found in the reading room.

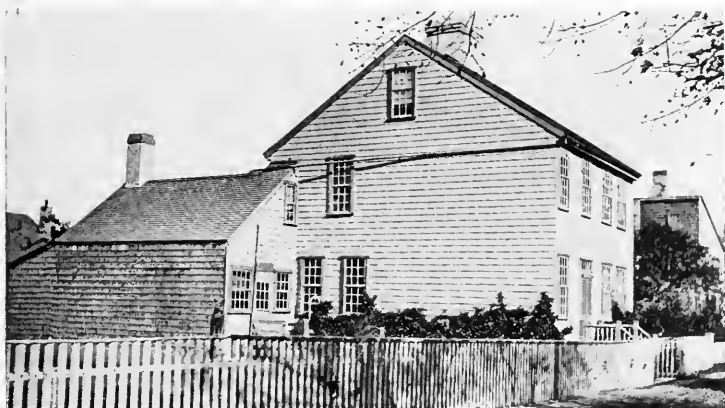
**STARTING IN 1820** with **26 VOLUMES**, the library has grown to its present proportions. The "Nantucket Atheneum" society was incorporated in 1836, and occupied the Universalist church building, which they bought and fitted up for the purpose. The building was destroyed in the great fire of 1846, and from the insurance thereon the present structure was erected. **ABOVE THE LIBRARY IS A HALL.** The museum, which for many years occupied a room in this building, has been placed in the fireproof structure of the Historical Association on Fair Street.

### ***Birthplace of Maria Mitchell***

Main Street to **SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' MONUMENT** (page 23). Milk Street to Vestal Street. **OPEN DAILY, EXCEPT SUNDAY, FROM 9.30 TO 12, AND 2.30 TO 5. ADMISSION 15 CENTS.**

This old house, now the property of the **MARIA MITCHELL MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION** of Vassar graduates and others, was **BUILT IN 1790**, and stands on Vestal street, just west of Milk street, where, in **AUGUST, 1818**, this noted astronomer was born.

In 1847 she discovered the comet which bears her name, and held the chair of mathematical astronomy at Vassar



Birthplace of Maria Mitchell

College from its opening until her death, which occurred in June, 1899.

In the yard adjoining is a **FIREPROOF OBSERVATORY**, built by the Association, and equipped with a telescope, a gift to Prof. Mitchell, in 1858.

### ***Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument***

Main Street to **MONUMENT SQUARE.**



With the money raised by local subscription the monument was erected in memory of the 74 fellow-townsmen who **GAVE UP THEIR LIVES IN BATTLE** during the Civil War. Nantucket gained the distinction of "**BANNER TOWN**" OF THE **COMMONWEALTH**, by sending into the army and navy three hundred and thirty-nine men, fifty-six more than her quota.



Old Lighthouse, Brant Point

### ***Brant Point***

From Main Street Square, take Federal Street to Broad Street, to Beach Street, to Easton Street. **THREE-QUARTERS OF A MILE.** Passes the **PUBLIC LIBRARY** (page 22), and the **NANTUCKET ATHLETIC CLUB.**

This is the site of the **FIRST LIGHTHOUSE IN THE UNITED STATES**, which was **ERECTED IN 1746.** At that time Brant Point was several hundred yards west of its present position. No less than **TEN LIGHTHOUSES** have been built on this point, and two are standing at the present time, the others having been blown down or destroyed by fire.

The **SMALL WHITE LIGHTHOUSE** on the tip of the point has been there but a few years. The light is **26 FEET ABOVE THE WATER, AND IS VISIBLE**



Nantucket Athletic Club

**ABOUT 6 MILES.** The lantern was taken from the **OLD TOWER**, standing 600 feet west, which was **BUILT IN 1856.**

The new **RANGE LIGHTS**, of skeleton construction, **ERECTED IN 1908**, were made necessary by changing the course of the channel, recently dredged, since which time the old Cliff Range Beacons, erected in 1838, near the bathing beach, have been discontinued. The lights shown are **FIXED WHITE.**

In former years **SALT-WORKS** were in operation here and a good quality of sea salt was manufactured. **SHIP-YARDS** were also located on the point, and considerable shipbuilding was carried on. **A MARINE RAILWAY** was employed in removing the larger vessels from the water, that repairs could be readily made.

### *Old North Vestry*

From Main Street Square, take Center Street to the Congregational Church; **VESTRY STANDS IN THE REAR.**

This structure, **BUILT OF ISLAND TIMBER**, was **ERECTED ABOUT 1711**, and stood a little to the north of **NO BOTTOM POND**, or about one-half mile west from the junction of west Center and North Liberty streets.

In 1765 it was moved to **BEACON HILL**, where the Congregational Church now stands, and in 1834 **WAS MOVED BACK** to make room for the present church building, in connection with which it is still used.



Old North Vestry

## Unitarian Church—South Tower



From Main Street Square, take Orange Street. Admission to the tower, **NOT OPEN AT ALL HOURS**, can be obtained of the attendant who rings the bell at seven in the morning and at noon.

**ERECTED IN 1810** the old church and tower, with its gilded dome flashing in the sunlight, stands guard over the town, ever ready to give warning in case of danger.

In its oaken tower is located the **TOWN CLOCK**, and historic **OLD BELL**, striking out the hours of the day and pealing forth for a little while at **SEVEN** in the morning, at **NOON**, and at **NINE** in the evening. At night a watchman is on duty to keep a lookout for fire, the bell being connected with the automatic **FIRE ALARM** system.

From the **LOOKOUT**, the floor of which is 86 feet above the street, or 120 feet above sea level, a **FINE VIEW** can be had of the town, island and surrounding waters. From the base of the tower to the tip of the vane spindle is 110 feet. The **CLOCK DIALS** are nine feet four inches in diameter.

In the belfry hangs the **OLD LISBON BELL**, noted for its remarkable sweetness of tone. It **WEIGHS 1,575 pounds** and was one of a set of six bells cast for a church of great veneration, at Mountain, in Lisbon, Portugal. Capt. Charles Clasby, of Nantucket, who, in 1812, visited the **FOUNDRY IN LISBON**, where the bell was cast, was charmed by its mellow tone, and expressed a desire to have it. As the bell had not been consecrated he was able to purchase it and another was substituted to complete the chime of six. It was **BROUGHT TO THE ISLAND** in the whaleship, "William and Nancy," Capt. Thomas Cary, and in **1815 WAS HUNG IN THE TOWER**.

The **INSCRIPTION ON THE BELL** is in Portuguese, and is as follows:

**"AO BOM JEZUS DO MONTE COMPLETAO SEUS VOTOS OS DEVOTOS DE LISBOA, OFFERECENDO**



LHE HUM COMPLETO JOGO DE SEIS SINOS PARA CHAMAR POS OVOS ADORALO NO SEU SANTU-  
ARIO.

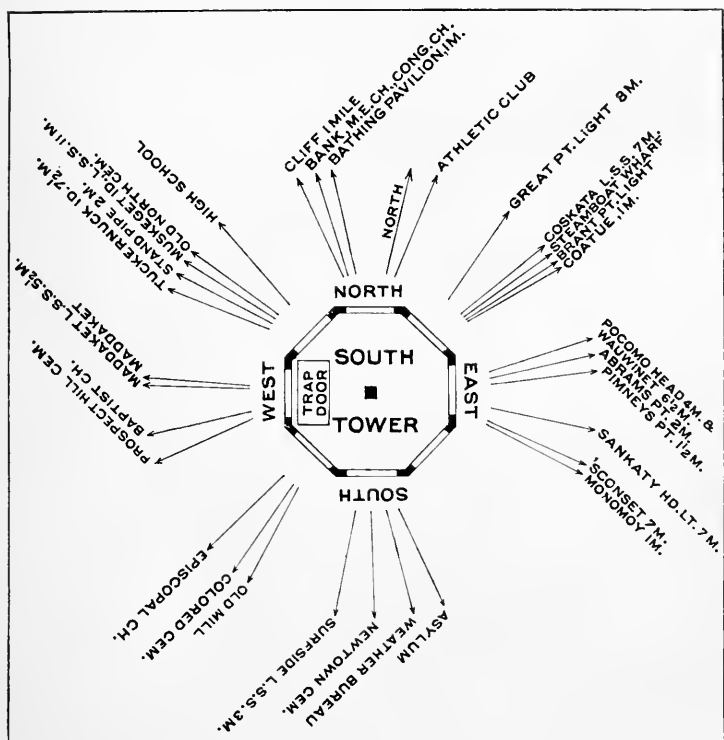
"JOZE DOMINGUES DACOSTA OFEZ EM LISBOA NO ANNO DE 1810."

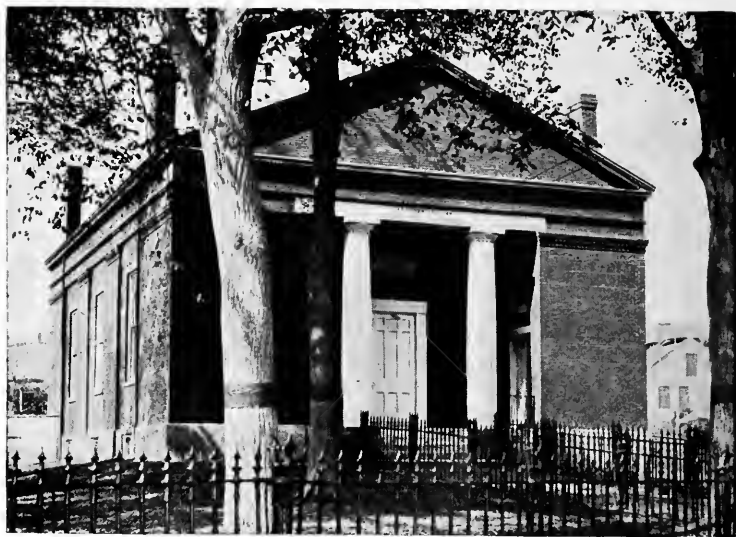
TRANSLATION:

"To the Good Jesus of the Mountain the devotees of Lisbon direct their prayers, offering Him one complete set of six bells, to call the people and adore Him on His Sanctuary.

"Jose Domingos da Costa has done it in Lisbon on the year 1810."

*Diagram of the Points of Interest Visible from  
the South Tower*





The Coffin School

### ***Coffin School***

Main Street to Winter Street.

The school was **FOUNDED IN 1827**, by **SIR ISAAC COFFIN**, a British Admiral, for the sole benefit of the descendants of Tristram Coffin. It was closed in 1898, the fund being inadequate for the successful operation of the school. Legislative permission having been obtained and the permanent funds added to, it was reopened, in 1903, to all students, as a **MANUAL TRAINING SCHOOL**, in co-operation with the public school system.

Its interests are looked after by the **COFFIN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION OF NANTUCKET**, organized to promote the interests of Admiral Sir Isaac Coffin's Lancasterian School.

**CLASSES** in mechanical drawing, woodworking, cabinet-work, sewing and basketry, are taught.

The **SCHOOL WAS ORIGINALLY LOCATED ON THE EAST SIDE OF FAIR STREET**, a short distance north of Lyons street. The present building was **ERECTED IN 1852**.

**ISAAC COFFIN** was born in Boston, in 1750. At the age of fourteen he entered the British Navy, became an admiral and after retiring from active life returned to America. Visiting Nantucket, where his great-grandfather, Tristram Coffin, was one of the first settlers, he found a thriving town of 8,000 population, many of whom were akin to him. Desirous of doing something in their behalf he established the school.



The Cliff Bathing Beach

### *The Cliff Bathing Beach*

From Main Street Square, take Federal Street to Broad Street to Beach Street to North Beach Street to the beach road. **ONE MILE.** Passes the **PUBLIC LIBRARY** (page 22), and the **NANTUCKET ATHLETIC CLUB.**

**CARRIAGES MAKE REGULAR TRIPS** from Main Street Square. **FARE 10 CENTS.**

**BOAT** leaves **OLD NORTH WHARF**, daily at 9.30, 10.30, and 11.30 a. m., returning, leaves beach at 10, 11, and 12. **FARE 10 CENTS.**

Under the North Shore cliffs, where the **WESTERN JETTY** juts out into the sound, is the Cliff Bathing Beach, noted for its excellent **STILL-WATER BATHING.**

The proximity of the **GULF STREAM**, which flows

nearer the island than at any point on the coast except Florida, renders the **WATER OF A WARMER TEMPERATURE** than is usually found at this latitude, the average being from **70 TO 74 DEGREES** during the months of July and August.

The land upon which the Pavilion stands and the immediate vicinity, has been set apart as a Public Park.

**WARM SALT WATER BATHS** can be had at an establishment adjoining the Athletic Club, near the steamboat wharf.





Rotch Market

## ***Rotch Market***

This old market is located at the foot of Main Street Square. The building was **ERECTED** IN 1772 by William Rotch, a famous shipowner, and was later used by him as a **WAREHOUSE**. It is now the property of the "**PACIFIC CLUB**." The "**CAPTAIN'S ROOM**" is on the first floor and faces **THE SQUARE**. It was the custom for the shipmasters to meet here and exchange experiences and discuss the news of the day. The **CUSTOM-HOUSE** is in this building.

## ***Jail***

Main Street to **SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' MONUMENT** (page 23). Milk Street to Vestal Street, passing **BIRTHPLACE OF MARIA MITCHELL** (page 22), to jail which is **LOCATED BACK OF THE JAILER'S HOUSE**, where application should be made for admission.

This old building, with its whitewashed interior, huge wooden doors and heavy iron fastenings, stands as a menace to the wrongdoer. It was **BUILT IN 1805**, and has ever been noted for the fewness and orderliness of its occupants.



Old Jail

## *The Cliff—North Shore*

From Main Street Square, take Center Street to North Shore Hill to Cliff Road. Distance **ONE MILE**. See map of the town or road map. This route passes **OLD NORTH VESTRY** (page 25).

The **HIGHEST POINT** on the "**NORTH SHORE**" of the island is one mile northwest from the center of the town, at which point the bluff rises to a height of **62 FEET**. The locality is known as the "**CLIFF**," and many summer residences have been built here. On a clear day a fine view can be had, and numbers of vessels may be seen sailing "down" **THE SOUND**. The island of **TUCKERNUCK**



The East Pond, Tuckernuck

(index), the **MUSKEGET LIFE-SAVING STATION** (index) and **GREAT POINT LIGHT HOUSE** (page 37) can be seen, and the **STEAMBOAT** is **VISIBLE** an hour before it reaches the wharf.

The **GOLF CLUB** house, not far distant, is located on the Cliff road which leads to the **WATER-WORKS**.

**SACHEM SPRING** is on the beach at the foot of Hinckley lane, which branches from the main road just before the clubhouse is reached.



The Muskeget Life-Saving Station

ONE EIGHTH MILE

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The Surf at 'Sconset

### *Village of Siasconset*

**RAILROAD** between Nantucket and 'Sconset. **DEPOT** on North, or Steamboat Wharf. **EIGHT AND ONE-HALF MILES. FARE 35 CENTS, ROUND TRIP 60 CENTS.**

From Main Street Square, take Orange Street to the **STATE ROAD**, thence direct **SEVEN AND ONE-HALF MILES.** Passes "**NEW-TOWN GATE**" (index), the **GIBBS POND CRANBERRY BOG** (index), and **GOLF LINKS.** Or via **POLPIS** (page 38), and follow guideboards or road map **TEN AND ONE-HALF MILES.** Beyond Polpis this route passes **SANKATY HEAD LIGHTHOUSE** (page 35).

**BOAT TO WAUWINET** (page 36), thence **ALONG SHORE**, passing **SQUAM HEAD, QUIDNET** (page 35), and **SACACHA POND**, thence **ALONG THE BLUFF** passing **SANKATY HEAD LIGHTHOUSE** (page 35), to 'Sconset. **FIVE AND ONE-HALF MILES.** Train to Nantucket.

'**SCONSET VILLAGE**, formerly a quaint little **FISHING HAMLET**, whose history dates back to the year 1758, is becoming yearly more popular as an up-to-date seaside resort.

Facing the ocean and overlooking a magnificent marine view, the village, with its grass-grown streets, old **TOWN PUMP** and **TINY FISHERMEN'S HOUSES**, fenced off in rectangular plots with narrow ways or lanes running between, **STANDS ON THE EDGE OF A BLUFF** or "'Sconset Bank," about 30 **FEET HIGH.** "Under the Bank" and stretching away to the ocean is a **SANDY BEACH** an eighth of a mile wide, where the people gather in the forenoon to enjoy the fine **SURF BATHING** or lounge about the sands, watch the breakers and drink in the pure air, laden with the ocean's saltiness.

In the village is a **POST-OFFICE** and a number of good **STORES**, where provisions of all kinds can be obtained. There are several **HOTELS**, a **SCHOOLHOUSE** and a **CHAPEL**, where services are held by all denominations in turn, including Roman Catholic. A well-equipped **CASINO**, **TENNIS COURTS**, and **GOLF COURSE**, with the excellent, and safe, surf bathing, and a **PAVILION** where



Sacacha Pond, Looking Toward Sankaty Head Lighthouse

**WARM SALT WATER BATHS** can be had, suggest a few of the attractions.

Across "**LOW BEACH**" on the south, and two miles from the village, is **TOM NEVER'S HEAD**, and pond, where, in 1814, a **NAVAL BATTLE** took place, just off shore. **TO SANKATY HEAD LIGHTHOUSE** (page 35) is a most delightful walk. It is reached by a well-worn **FOOT-PATH** along the edge of the bluff, which, rising gradually from Low Beach extends northward to Sankaty Head, **ONE AND ONE-HALF MILES** from the village, at which point it reaches an elevation of **92 FEET**, the **HIGHEST POINT ON THE COAST** of the island. A tramp of two and one-half miles over **THE MOORS**, and among the hills west of Sankaty, brings one to the **HIGHEST POINT ON THE ISLAND**, where the summit of **SAUL'S HILLS** reaches an elevation of **102 FEET** above the level of the sea.

**THE FIRST WIRELESS TELEGRAPH STATION** in America, established for actual business, was located in 'Sconset, and stood directly south of the present station and on the opposite side of Main Street. It was moved to its present position in 1905, and more powerful apparatus installed. Communication can be had with the **NAN-TUCKET SHOALS LIGHTSHIP**, anchored about **FIFTY MILES** southeast of the island, or with the **OCEAN LINERS** which pass at still greater distance. On the 23rd of January, 1909, this station caught the distress signal "**C-Q-D**," sent out by the steamship "**REPUBLIC**," then in a sinking condition, with several hundred passengers on board, who, but for the timely call for assistance sent out by this station, would undoubtedly have gone down with the vessel. The collision took place 26 miles southwest of the lightship, or about seventy miles south of the island.





Sankaty Head Lighthouse

### ***Sankaty Head Lighthouse***

One and one-half miles north of **'SCONSET** (page 33). Or, via **POLPIS** (page 38), and follow guideboards or road map. **NINE MILES** via either Polpis or 'Sconset.

This lighthouse which stands on the eastern shore of the island is one of the finest on the coast. It was **BUILT IN 1850**, and stands on a **BLUFF 92 FEET IN HEIGHT**. The light is **166 FEET** above the water and can be seen at a distance of **22 MILES**.

The light is **FIXED WHITE** for **50 SECONDS**, varied by a **WHITE FLASH OF 10 SECONDS**. The **TOWER IS WHITE** at the top and bottom, with a broad **BAND OF RED IN THE MIDDLE**.

### ***Quidnet***

Via **POLPIS** (page 38), and follow guideboards or road map **SEVEN AND ONE-HALF MILES**. Quidnet is distant about one and three-quarter miles from **WAUWINET** (page 36), or **SANKATY HEAD LIGHTHOUSE** (above).

This former **FISHING HAMLET** is situated on the eastern shore of the island, just north of **SACACHA POND**, in which there is good **PERCH FISHING**, and is about half way between Wauwinet and Sankaty Head. It is a favorite **CAMPING GROUND** and **SHORE DINNERS** can usually be arranged for.

One of the **BOATHOUSES** of the Massachusetts Humane Society stands near, and a little to the north of, the beach.

**SQUAM HEAD** is about one mile north, and **GREAT ROUND SHOAL LIGHTSHIP** is anchored eight miles off shore.



Quidnet, Looking Toward Sankaty Head Lighthouse

## ***Wauwinet***

Reached **BY BOATS** which leave North or Steamboat wharf at 9 and 11 a. m., 2 and 4 p. m. Returning leave Wauwinet at the same hours. **SIX MILES UP THE HARBOR. FARE 25 CENTS.** Or via **POLPIS** (page 38), and follow guideboards or road map **9 MILES.** Beyond Polpis this route passes **EAT FIRE SPRING** (index).

**BY TRAIN** to 'SCONSET (page 33), follow **PATH ALONG THE BLUFF**, passing **SANKATY HEAD LIGHTHOUSE** (page 35), to **SACACHA POND.** Thence **ALONG SHORE**, passing **QUIDNET** (page 35), and **SQUAM HEAD** to Wauwinet. **FIVE AND ONE-HALF MILES.** Boat to Nantucket.

Wauwinet, at the head of the harbor and about an **HOURLY SAIL** from Nantucket, is made up of summer



Landing at Wauwinet

cottages and a **HOTEL**, the "Wauwinet House," where **SHORE DINNERS** are served. Many prefer to carry luncheon and spend the entire time between the arrival and departure of the boat on the beach, or walk to **SQUAM HEAD** (one mile south along the beach or by road), the **COSKATA LIFE-SAVING STATION**, two and one-half miles north, or **GREAT POINT LIGHTHOUSE** (page 37).

Both **STILL-WATER AND SURF BATHING** can be indulged in at Wauwinet. **GREAT ROUND SHOAL LIGHTSHIP** bears N. E., six and one-half miles.

The narrow stretch of beach between the ocean and the harbor is called the "**HAUL-**



Great Point Lighthouse

**OVER,**" because the fishermen used to haul their boats across it as a short cut home, thus saving the long sail around Great Point. The beach is sometimes broken through by the waves. During the easterly storm of December 15, 1896, an **OPENING** was made by the surf cutting its way through in close proximity to the buildings at Wauwinet. The inlet thus made remained open for 12 years, but gradually worked its way northward, traversing the entire length of the Haul-over Beach, or about one mile, until the rising ground of Coskata was reached. At times the opening attained width and depth sufficient to allow the passage of vessels of over six feet draft.

A photograph, taken by the writer, just before the opening was closed, can be seen at the Historical Association.

### ***Great Point Lighthouse***

**BOAT TO WAUWINET** (page 36), cross the narrow beach called the **HAUL-OVER** to the ocean side, thence north along the beach, passing **COSKATA POND**, and **COSKATA LIFE-SAVING STATION** (one-half mile on left), to Great Point. Distance **5 MILES**. Requires about **2 HOURS'** time each way.

The **FIRST LIGHTHOUSE ON GREAT POINT**, a frame structure, was **BUILT IN 1764** and stood until November, 1816, when it was destroyed by fire. **IN 1818 THE PRESENT STONE TOWER** was erected, and stands about a quarter of a mile from the end of the point.

The light is **70 FEET** above the water and is visible **16**



On the Road to Polpis

**MILES.** Lightships on **GREAT ROUND SHOAL**, a little north of east, and **HANDKERCHIEF SHOAL**, a little west of north, are distant about 7 miles from the lighthouse.

The light is **FIXED WHITE WITH A RED SECTOR** covering **CROSS RIP** and **TUCKERNUCK SHOALS**. **THE TOWER IS WHITE.**

### ***Polpis***

From Main Street Square, take Orange Street to the State Road, and follow guideboards, or road map, 6 **MILES**, passing "**NEWTOWN GATE**" (index), **MONOMOY** (index), "**SHAWKEMO SPRING**" (index), "**MIRIAM COFFIN'S COUNTY SEAT,**" at **QUAISE** (index). Marker by roadside.

On an arm of the upper harbor, called Polpis Harbor, is the little **FARMING SETTLEMENT** of Polpis, consisting of a few dwellings and a **SCHOOLHOUSE**. Just across the road from the schoolhouse there stood until recently one of the oldest houses on the island, built in about 1700.

A **FULLING MILL** was erected here in 1708 and the little stream which operated the mill has since been known as the **FULLING MILL BROOK**.

**OYSTERS** are now being successfully grown in the harbor and a number of fine beds exist.



Tuckernuck from the East Pond

### ***Maddaket***

Main Street, by **SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' MONUMENT** (page 23), to Maddaket road, **SIX AND THREE-QUARTER MILES**. Passes **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SPRING** (below), and the **LONG POND** Cranberry Bog. Northern route crosses Long Pond at the "**GUT BRIDGE**," Southern route at "**MASSASOIT BRIDGE**." Consult road maps. See Life-saving Stations.

This is the site of the Maddaket **LIFE-SAVING STATION**, and a few dwellings at the western end of the island, overlooking Hither Creek and **MADDAKET HARBOR**. It was here that Edward Starbuck, Thomas Coleman, and Thomas Macy built their hut and spent the winter of 1658-9. They were there as the representatives of the first settlers, and were sent to negotiate with the Indians regarding the purchase of their property ; and also to look over the ground and decide upon suitable sites for the houses the settlers were about to erect.

**SMITH POINT**, the westernmost point of the island, where the **CABLE HOUSE** is located, extends about two miles west of the life-saving station.

One of the **BOATHOUSES** belonging to the Massachusetts Humane Society stands on the point a short distance west of the station.

From "**WARREN'S LANDING**" to "**BROOKS'S LANDING**" Tuckernuck (index) is about three miles.

The Fountain, or **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SPRING**, on the Maddaket road, marks the site of **PETER FOLGER'S HOUSE**, where, on August 15, 1667, was born his daughter, Abiah, mother of Benjamin Franklin.

### ***Cemeteries***

All cemeteries, with the exception of the oldest one, are **SHOWN UPON THE MAP** of the town.

The cemeteries are interesting, because of the **QUAINT**

**EPITAPHS** and the bits of history inscribed upon the old moss-covered stones.

The **OLDEST BURIAL GROUND** is on a hill **NEAR MAXCY'S POND**, a short distance south of the **STAND-PIPE** of the Wannacomet Water Company, and two miles west of the town. (Water works, see *The Cliff*, page 31.) The cemetery site is marked by a **GRANITE MONUMENT** (the old headstone having been removed for preservation), erected over the grave of **CAPT. JOHN GARDNER**, one of the great men of his time. Invited to settle upon the island "to set up the trade of fishing for the taking of codfish," he left his home in Salem, Massachusetts, in 1672, and moved to Nantucket. He was a man of much influence among the Indians, and in 1680 was appointed Chief Magistrate, the highest office that a Nantucketer could hold.

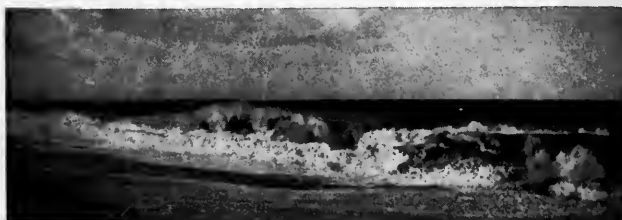
This old cemetery is not far from the **SITE OF the FIRST TOWN** (Settlers, page 12), which was called **SHERBURNE**.

The **NEXT OLDEST** cemetery is the "**OLD NORTH**," on the northwest corner of New and Grove lanes, and, with the exception of the oldest, is marked with the others upon the map of the town, viz.: **OLD NORTH, NORTH, FRIENDS', PROSPECT HILL, CATHOLIC, COLORED, and NEWTOWN OR SOUTH**.

At the Historical Association rooms will be found a **CARD CATALOGUE OF EVERY LEGIBLE INSCRIPTION** found upon the old gravestones.

### ***Books Relating to Nantucket***

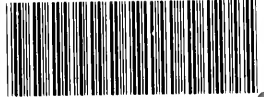
Title.	Author.
Miriam Coffin.....	James C. Hart
Trustum and His Grandchildren.....	Harriet Worrton
There She Blows.....	William Hussey Macy
History of Nantucket.....	Obed Macy
History of the American Whale Fishery, Alexander Starbuck	
Nantucket Scraps.....	Jane C. Austin
'Sconset Cottage Life.....	A. Judd Northrup
Quaint Nantucket.....	William Root Bliss
An Island Plant.....	Mary Catherine Lee



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